GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:506
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
RELOCATION OF ELEPHANTS
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a panel to take a new look at its order for relocation of elephants from zoos to forest camps near sanctuaries which had met with stiff resistance from several zoo directors across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the incidents reported so far during the last three years;

(d) the road plan prepared to avoid such incidents in future; and

(e) the guidelines given to States by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Central Zoo Authority has set up a three members Appraisal Committee comprising of experts on elephant, animal welfare and rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals to carry out evaluation of the housing facilities provided to the elephants in zoos, so that necessary decision can be taken on the issue of relocation of elephants from zoos to forest camp.

(b) & (c) Directors of zoos at Hyderabad, Mysore, Bangalore, Trivandrum, Pune and others have requested to retain the elephants within the respective zoos providing justification for the same.

(d) The Central Zoo Authority has proposed to hold a stakeholders workshop on "Elephant upkeep in the Zoos" involving Animal Welfare Activists, NGOs, Scientists, Zoos, Forest Department Personnel including Chief Wildlife Wardens to come up with the recommendations to be adopted regarding the rehabilitation of the elephants in the zoos.

(e) As per the advisory issued by the Central Zoo Authority vide letter dated 7th November 2009, the zoos have been advised to rehabilitate elephants to the rehabilitation camps/ elephant camps / facilities available with the forest department at National Parks/ Wildlife Sanctuaries/ Tiger Reserves for departmental use.